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EC73-2028 Energy Conservation in the Home : Building and Remodeling

Mary D. Christensen

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Building and Remodeling

Mary D. Christensen
Extension Specialist (Housing)

If you are selecting, building or remodeling a home, you have a golden opportunity to be an energy conservationist. The home is a big fuel user. Many decisions you will make will affect the amount of fuel required to operate your home.

Do's and Don'ts

- Don't provide more space than you actually need. Remember you will have to heat, cool, light and clean it.
- Don't provide large spaces for little used areas. Example: how large does a formal living room need to be if you only use the family room?
- Consider multi-use rooms: living room-dining room, office-guest room, etc.
- Place main entrances where they will be protected from winter winds.
- Provide an entryway in the home to trap outside air and keep it from spreading through the home.
- Locate "hot rooms" (kitchen, laundry, etc.) in cooler sections of the home—away from the west sun.
- Design and orient the house so that you do not have large west windows that are not shaded.
- Protect windows from the sun's rays by means of shades, screens and roof overhangs.

- Avoid large expanses of concrete or blacktop directly adjacent to large windows.
- Landscape the yard to provide trees to shade the roof and west windows.
- Select window treatment with an eye towards insulating qualities.
- Carpet floors. Carpets and rugs are warmer than smooth flooring.
- Consider color of rooms in relation to the location in the home. Warm colors (reds and yellows) will make cool rooms seem warmer. Cool colors (blues and greens) will make rooms seem cooler.
- Insulate the walls and attic floor.
- Have storm windows for all windows.
- Zone heat and run the bedroom area at a lower temperature than the living area.
- Locate your furnace centrally. It will be more efficient than one not centrally located.
- Select heating and cooling equipment for efficiency and capacity for your home.
- Take care in selecting kitchen appliances. Select only appliances and features that you need and will use.

Want more information? Visit your County Extension Office. Other energy conservation circulars are available.

EC 73-2025 Energy Conservation in the Home--There Is an Energy Crisis!

EC 73-2026 Energy Conservation in the Home--Kitchen

EC 73-2027 Energy Conservation in the Home--Inside the House

EC 73-2028 Energy Conservation in the Home--Building and Remodeling

EC 73-2029 Energy Conservation in the Home--Cooling

EC 73-2030 Energy Conservation in the Home--Heating

EC 73-2031 Energy Conservation in the Home--Outside the House